

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A nail puller comprising

a lever arm having a handle at one end and a portion of reduced width at its other end,

a base assembly comprising a base plate and a rocker plate, said rocker plate having a rounded toe for engaging a work surface,

means for pivotally connecting the lever arm to the base plate,

a first gripping jaw affixed to the lever arm, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail,

a second gripping jaw affixed to the base plate at a distance from said toe, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail at a point opposite a corresponding tooth on the first gripping jaw, whereby, when a nail shank is situated between said opposed teeth and a manual force is applied to said handle in the direction of the toe, a gripping force is applied the nail shank while the base plate pivots about a line of contact between the toe and the work surface, to pull the nail from the surface,

wherein each jaw has plural teeth with grooves between adjacent teeth, said grooves being of sufficient depth to avoid contact with the head of a nail whose shank is grasped by said teeth.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) ~~The invention of claim 1~~

A nail puller comprising

a lever arm having a handle at one end and a portion of reduced width at its other end,

a base assembly comprising a base plate and a rocker plate, said rocker plate having a rounded toe for engaging a work surface,